Case 3036

Haliotis clathrata Reeve, 1846 (non Lichtenstein, 1794) and *H. elegans* Philippi, 1844 (Mollusca, Gastropoda): proposed conservation of the specific names

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the specific names of two prosobranch gastropods — *Haliotis clathrata* Reeve, 1846 and *H. elegans* Philippi, 1844. These two names are threatened by the unused name *Haliotis clathrata* Lichtenstein, 1794, which is a senior homonym of the first and a senior subjective synonym of the second.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Gastropoda; Prosobranchia; HALIOTIDAE; *Haliotis clathrata*; *Haliotis elegans*.

1. Lichtenstein's *Catalogus rerum naturalium rarissimum* was published as a catalogue in three parts — the first in 1793 dealt with mammals and birds, the second (1794) with mollusks, and the third in 1796 with insects. The catalogue meets all the requirements for publication and is an available work. Kerzhner (1994) described the history of the catalogue and proposed that the third part should be suppressed for nomenclatural purposes with the conservation of a number of insect names; the Commission accepted this proposal in Opinion 1820 (1995).

2. In the second part of his catalogue (1794), Lichtenstein described 16 new mollusks including *Haliotis clathrata* (p. 105). This name was overlooked in the large monographs of the genus *Haliotis* by Reeve (1846), Sowerby (1882), Weinkauff (1883), Pilsbry (1890) and Kaicher (1981). This century, the name has been included in lists by Sherborn (1902), Pickery (1991), Prado & Abreu (1993) and Ubaldi (1993). Wagner & Abbott (1978) listed '*Haliotis clathrata* Lichtenstein, 1794. Undetermined species' (see also Geiger, 1998a, p. 100).

3. Reeve (1846, pl. 17, fig. 71) established the name *Haliotis clathrata* for a shallow water prosobranch ranging from Madagascar to American Samoa and from Southern Japan to Southeastern Australia. It is a fairly well recognized species with one holotype and two paratypes in the Natural History Museum, London (see Yen, 1942, p. 175). Although poorly described in the literature, the name has been used by a small number of authors (e.g., Yen, 1942; Ladd, 1966; Kaicher, 1981; Gosliner et al., 1996). In a forthcoming paper, we (Stewart & Geiger, 1999) demonstrate that *H. clathrata* Reeve is a valid name and is not (contra Talmadge, 1957) a juvenile of *H. rubra* Leach, 1814 (see also Geiger, 1998a, p. 100).

4. Philippi (1844, p. 119, pl. 1, fig. 1) established the name *Haliotis elegans*, which is quite well known in the scientific as well as the popular literature (e.g., Hinton, 1978; Kaicher, 1981; Abbott & Dance, 1983; Wilson, 1993). Authorship of this species is sometimes attributed to 'Koch in Philippi', but it is apparent that Philippi wrote the description, where he only made reference to Koch (see Geiger, 1998b, pp. 158–159). One of us (Geiger, 1998b, pp. 158–159) has presented the arguments for synonymy between *H. elegans* and *H. clathrata* Lichtenstein, and concluded that 'the overwhelming majority of the clear evidence indisputably indicates that *H. clathrata* Lichtenstein is synonymous with *H. elegans*' (see also Stewart & Geiger, 1999).

5. The name *Haliotis clathrata* Lichtenstein has not been used other than in lists for over a century. Under Article 23.9 of the proposed 4th Edition of the Code (due to come into effect on 1 January 2000), the fact that a name had not been used as valid after 1899 would require maintenance of prevailing usage of its junior homonym or synonym provided the junior name had been used as valid in at least 25 works published by at least 10 authors in the preceding 50 years. This requirement of usage would not be met for *H. clathrata* Reeve and probably not for *H. elegans*. The Lichtenstein name, therefore, poses a threat to two nominal species — *H. clathrata* Reeve (a junior homonym) and *H. elegans* (a junior synonym). We believe that, after publication of a recent series of papers (Geiger, 1998a; Geiger, 1998b; Stewart & Geiger, 1999; Geiger & Groves, under review), the name *H. clathrata* Reeve will be used as valid much more than at present. We therefore propose the suppression of *H. clathrata* Lichtenstein in order to conserve the current names of the nominal species *H. clathrata* Reeve and *H. elegans* Philippi.

6. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the name *clathrata* Lichtenstein, 1794, as published in the binomen *Haliotis clathrata*, and all uses of the name *Haliotis clathrata* prior to the publication of *Haliotis clathrata* Reeve, 1848, for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy;

(2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
  (a) *clathrata* Reeve, 1846, as published in the binomen *Haliotis clathrata*;
  (b) *elegans* Philippi, 1844, as published in the binomen *Haliotis elegans*;

(3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *clathrata* Lichtenstein, 1794, as published in the binomen *Haliotis clathrata* and as suppressed in (1) above.

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